





Children of Migrant Farm Workers Project




To remain the top food and agricultural producer in the country, California must rely on a dedicated, mobile labor force. Many of the state's estimated 300,000 migrant farm workers travel with their children throughout the season and First 5 California knows these hard-to-find children need services as well. We launched the California Children of Migrant Farm Workers Project to address these challenges, committing nearly \$12 million over six years to increase and improve parent education services for migrant farm workers and their young children.



One of First 5 California's goals is to improve access to health care and early education for one of the most isolated populations in the state, the children of California's migrant farm workers. Regardless of where they or their parents were born, First 5 California works to ensure all children have access to early learning, healthcare, school readiness and special needs services with:

-  A more than \$8 million investment in the MEES Program to increase the availability of parent education services to migrant farm worker families.
-  A partnership with LUPE, to invest \$2.2 million over four years to implement parent education programs in eight counties in the Central Coast and Central Valley regions, reaching more than 50,000 farm working families.

Accomplishments to Date: Reaching Migrant Farm Worker Families

-  First 5 California funds California Migrant Education Even Start (MEES) in 23 migrant education regions in 46 counties, resulting in more than 14,000 children and parents receiving much needed programs and services.
-  First 5 California has distributed more than 1,000 Kits for New Parents to migrant farm worker families.
-  Through its partnership with La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), the community organizing entity of the Farm Workers' Movement, First 5 California provided outreach to more than 600 families through home visits in 2005-06.

"The First 5 California Migrant Even Start Program was extremely beneficial for my son and my entire family. It helped my son become more fully involved in his education and it helped us understand our responsibilities as parents. My children have been honored as Students of the Month and Students of the Year. They are enrolled in Honors classes. Thank you, First 5 California and MEES for turning my family into a family of community leaders and scholars."

– Maria Perea, Gonzales, Monterey County